Manufacture of Paraxylene by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

638. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 69 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the final investment decision has since been taken by Government on the application of Bharat Petroleum Corporation for the manufacture of Paraxylene ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's policy to create capacity in public sector and private sector in such highly profitable ventures and what is the present position of such projects in private sector or public sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Consequent upon a review of the economic viability of the project by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., it was found that it is not economically viable and hence the proposal has been dropped.

(c) As per the existing Government policy, petrochemicals are not reserved for manufacture in public sector, and industrial licensing of the petrochemicals is considered on techno-economic merits. The current licenseed capacity of paraxylene is as follows :

1. Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. . .	17,000 TPA
2. Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	29,000 TPA
3. Reliance Industries Ltd.	67,000 TPA

IPCL's capacity is being expanded from 17,000 TPA to 35,000 TPA of Paraxylene.

Letters of intent have also been granted to Madras Refineries Ltd. and J. K. Synthetics Ltd., for setting up of Paraxylene capacity for captive consumption for the manufacture of PTA at Madras and UP respectively.

Prices of Paraxylene

639. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to very high price charged by manufacturers of Paraxylene, price of the end product to silk and synthetic powerloom weavers has tremendously increased ;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted to fix the cost of Paraxylene and whether all the private sector companies have supplied the figure regarding its cost to the BICP; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to import paraxylene on OGL to help handloom and powerloom weavers and what steps are being taken to apply public sector costings for charging to the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The price of paraxylene would be one